

CLAIMS

1. A method of controlling a network, comprising the steps of:
establishing a computer network connection between a computer and an intermediate
device which has network resources connected thereto;
determining a level of security of the computer network connection; and
controlling a level of access of the computer to the network resources using the level
of security of the computer network connection which has been determined.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of establishing comprises:
establishing a wireless computer network connection.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of establishing the wireless
computer network connection comprises:
establishing a wireless computer network connection which conforms to an IEEE
802.11b standard.

4. A method according to claim 1, where the step of determining a level of security
comprises:
determining whether the computer network connection is encrypted.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step determining whether the
computer network connection is encrypted comprises:
determining whether the computer network connection is encrypted using Wired
Equivalent Privacy ("WEP") encryption.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of controlling a level of access
further comprises:
allowing the computer to access a file server which is one of the network resources,
only when the step of determining the level of security determines that the computer network
connection is encrypted.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the step of controlling a level of access further comprises:

allowing the computer to access the Internet which is one of the network resources, regardless of whether the computer network connection is encrypted.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the step of controlling a level of access further comprises:

allowing the computer to access an email server which is one of the network resources, regardless of whether the computer network connection is encrypted.

9. A method according to claim 7, wherein the step of controlling a level of access further comprises:

allowing the computer to access an email server which is one of the network resources, only when the computer network connection is encrypted.

10. A method according to claim 1, wherein:

the step of determining is performed by the intermediate device, and
the step of controlling is performed by the intermediate device.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein:

the step of determining is performed by the intermediate device which is a router.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein:

the step of controlling is performed by the intermediate device which is a router having a firewall operation.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein:

the step of establishing is performed using the intermediate device which is a router which establishes a wireless connection to the computer.

14. A method according to claim 1, wherein:

the step of determining is performed by a server running a network operating system, the server being different from the intermediate device, and

the step of controlling is performed by the server running the network operating system.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein:

the step of determining is performed by the server which is running a network directory service.

16. A method according to claim 14, wherein:

the step of establishing is performed by a bridge connected to the computer through the computer network connection.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein:

the step of establishing is performed by the bridge connected to the computer through the computer network connection which is a wireless network connection.

18. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of controlling comprises:

controlling the level of access by a stand-alone firewall device which is connected between the intermediate device and the network resources.

19. A method according to claim 18, wherein the step of determining comprises:

determining the level of security using the intermediate device.

20. A method according to claim 18, wherein the step of establishing comprises:

establishing the computer network connection as a wireless connection using the intermediate device.

21. A system for controlling a network, comprising:

means for establishing a computer network connection between a computer and an intermediate device which has network resources connected thereto;

means for determining a level of security of the computer network connection; and

means for controlling a level of access of the computer to the network resources using the level of security of the computer network connection which has been determined.

22. A system according to claim 21, wherein said means for establishing comprises:
means for establishing a wireless computer network connection.

23. A system according to claim 21, wherein said means for establishing the wireless computer network connection comprises:

means for establishing a wireless computer network connection which conforms to an IEEE 802.11b standard.

24. A system according to claim 21, where the means for determining a level of security comprises:

means for determining whether the computer network connection is encrypted.

25. A system according to claim 21, wherein the step determining whether the computer network connection is encrypted comprises:

means for determining whether the computer network connection is encrypted using Wired Equivalent Privacy ("WEP") encryption.

26. A system according to claim 21, wherein the means for controlling a level of access further comprises:

means for allowing the computer to access a file server which is one of the network resources, only when the means for determining the level of security determines that the computer network connection is encrypted.

27. A system according to claim 26, wherein the means for controlling a level of access further comprises:

means for allowing the computer to access the Internet which is one of the network resources, regardless of whether the computer network connection is encrypted.

28. A system according to claim 27, wherein the means for controlling a level of access further comprises:

means for allowing the computer to access an email server which is one of the network resources, regardless of whether the computer network connection is encrypted.

29. A system according to claim 27, wherein the means for controlling a level of access further comprises:

means for allowing the computer to access an email server which is one of the network resources, only when the computer network connection is encrypted.

30. A system according to claim 21, wherein:

the means for determining is the intermediate device, and

the means for controlling is the intermediate device.

31. A system according to claim 30, wherein:

the means for determining is the intermediate device which is a router.

32. A system according to claim 31, wherein:

the means for controlling is the intermediate device which is a router having a firewall operation.

33. A system according to claim 32, wherein:

the means for establishing is the intermediate device which is a router which establishes a wireless connection to the computer.

34. A system according to claim 31, wherein:

the means for determining is a server running a network operating system, the server being different from the intermediate device, and

the means for controlling is the server running the network operating system.

35. A system according to claim 34, wherein:

the means for determining is the server which is running a network directory service.

36. A system according to claim 34, wherein:

the means for establishing is a bridge connected to the computer through the computer network connection.

37. A system according to claim 36, wherein:

the means for establishing is the bridge connected to the computer through the computer network connection which is a wireless network connection.

38. A system according to claim 21, wherein the means for controlling comprises:

a stand-alone firewall device which is connected between the intermediate device and the network resources.

39. A system according to claim 38, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining the level of security using the intermediate device.

40. A system according to claim 38, wherein the means for establishing comprises:

means for establishing the computer network connection as a wireless connection using the intermediate device.